

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2 and 6 without prejudice, and amend claims 1, 3-5, and 7.

The status of all claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A money identifying method, comprising the steps of:
 - obtaining a surface image of ~~money~~a coin;
 - determining center coordinates of the coin on the basis of the obtained surface image;
 - extracting from the obtained surface image a previously set particular threshold calculation range of the obtained surface image containing a feature area of the coin subject to judgment and not containing a background, on the basis of the determined center coordinates;
 - determining a density histogram of the extracted threshold calculation range;
 - calculating a binary threshold value for binarizing from the determined density histogram by a discriminating analysis;
 - binarizing the obtained surface image of the ~~money~~coin on the basis of the calculated binary threshold value; and
 - identifying the ~~money~~coin based on the binary binarized image.
2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The money identifying method according to claim 21, ~~wherein the money is a coin, and wherein the step of extracting the threshold calculation range is performed by~~ further comprising:

~~determining center coordinates and a~~ radius of the coin on the basis of the obtained surface image; and

wherein the step of extracting the threshold calculation range is performed by extracting the ~~an~~ image of the ~~predetermined area~~ an area of the threshold calculation range on the basis of the determined center coordinates and radius.

4. (Currently Amended) A money identifying device, comprising:
image obtaining means for obtaining a surface image of ~~money~~ a coin;
extracting means for determining center coordinates of the coin on the basis of the surface image of the coin obtained by the image obtaining means and ~~extracting an~~ from the surface image of a previously set particular threshold calculation range ~~of the surface image of the money obtained by the image obtaining means~~ containing a feature area of the coin subject to judgment and not containing a background, on the basis of the determined center coordinates;

binary threshold calculation means for determining a density histogram of the an image of the threshold calculation range extracted by the extracting means and calculating a binary threshold value for binarizing from the determined density histogram by applying a discriminating analysis;

binarizing means for binarizing the surface image obtained by the image obtaining means using the binary threshold value calculated by the binary threshold calculation means; and

identifying means for identifying the ~~money~~coin on the basis of the binary image binarized by the binarizing means.

5. (Currently Amended) The money identifying device according to claim 4, wherein the image obtaining means comprises:

lighting means for illuminating a surface of the ~~money~~coin; and

image-pickup means for taking a picture of the surface of the ~~money~~coin illuminated by the lighting means.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The money identifying device according to claim 64, wherein ~~the money is a coin, and wherein the~~ extracting means comprises:

determining means for determining the center coordinates and a radius of the coin on the basis of the surface image; and

area extracting means for extracting the image of ~~the predetermined area~~an area of the threshold calculation range on the basis of the center coordinates and radius of the coin determined by the determining means.